



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES
March 25, 2003

Members Present: Mike Vance-*President*, Robert Kinney-*Vice President*, Gloria Coney-*Clerk*, Mike Foley-*Treasurer*, Joelee Baker Bey, Ralph Cooper, Judy Flashner, Michael Glavin, Charlotte Golar Richie, Bette Greene, George Greenidge, Joanne Hilferty, Elizabeth Miranda, John Wagner and Thomas W. Yee

Members Absent: Rev. Gerald Bell, Robert Harrington, Mark Maloney, Valerie Pruitt, Frederick Umeh and Juanita Wade

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo, Shirley Carrington and Sherry O'Brien

EDIC Staff: Michelle Trousil and Ken Barnes

Guests: Marta Rivera (Mike Ross' Office) and Cheryl Snyder

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: To approve January 27, 2003 minutes for information since there was no quorum.

By: Mr. Baker Bey Second: Mrs. Greene
Recused: 0 Abstained:0 Opposed:0
Motion: Carried

Motion: To accept February 25, 2003 minutes (with the following change):
A. AD-HOC PLANNING COMMITTEE
Ms. Hilferty was introduced to facilitate the Committee process. She began by stating that the goal of this planning exercise was to help Board members better understand and agree upon the ~~Board~~ Boston Connects, Inc.'s activities and priorities for the coming year...

[Note: stricken sections are deletions to the text presented to the February Board;
underlined sections are additions to the text presented to the February Board minutes]

By: Mrs. Greene Second: Mr. Baker Bey
Recused: 0 Abstained:0 Opposed 0
Motion: Carried



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
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2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Vance thanked the Planning and Ad Hoc Committee for their hard work. His goal is to have an '03 budget ready for the Board to consider approval at April's meeting. Recommendations from Committees for expenditures would come to the Board for approval. Mr. Vance stated that attendance at other committee meetings was poor and that leaves the decision making to only a few.

He also stated the need to prioritize strategies in the Health & Well-Being category. This includes the Family Opportunity Centers. He encouraged everyone to make themselves available to attend these meetings.

Mrs. Ella Everett, elected Board Member from District 6, has resigned due to health reasons. Her term was up in 2004. He thanked her for her commitment. Pursuant to BCI's By-laws, he will work with the Vice President, Brother Kinney, to fill this vacancy.

Mr. Vance stressed the need for more EZ businesses to take advantage of the Tax Incentives. Specifically, BCI is looking for a business to use as an 'example' to other EZ businesses. BCI staff are investigating the possibility of another Tax Incentive Information Workshop and offering C.E.U.'s to participants. Mr. Vance asked the Board Members for their continued assistance.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Araujo distributed the Executive Director's report on the status of programs. She also stated that planning has begun for an open house/outreach effort to let the community know about construction jobs at Crosstown. This open house/job fair for potential applicants has two possible dates: Thursday May 15th and/or Saturday May 17th. The goal is to hold the event at 2201 Washington Street. Ms. Araujo encouraged feedback from the Board.

Discussion followed about making a pre-screening period mandatory in order to avoid giving false promises about jobs to interested parties. It needs to be ensured that applicants have all necessary credentials. Also, other resources could be available to assist applicants with support services.

The Ex-Offender Consultant position is presently being advertised in the local papers. The deadline is April 9, 2003. The position will be paid from the \$500,000 set aside for the initiative.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Ad-Hoc Planning Committee:

Ms. Hilferty reviewed the conclusions from the Planning exercise held at the February Board meeting. The top five priorities were as follows: creation of small business, especially through microlending; summer employment for youth; expanded capacity of community based organizations; increased awareness of EZ programs; monitoring of economic development and human services. Some initiatives, such as the F.O.C., did not score high. If there is a change in the plan, this should be discussed. The next step is to use this information to allocate staff to address the priorities. It allows for organizational alignment to the priorities and will also impact the budget.



B. Economic Development Committee:

Mr. Glavin thanked the Board members who attended the meeting. The proponent for the Palmer Street project gave a presentation to the Committee and will return with more detailed information. The list of questions for the developer was distributed and Board members are to contact Ms. Araujo by March 28th with any additional questions for the developer.

There was brief discussion around the relocation of Department of Public Health offices to Dudley Square. Flyers were distributed to the Board about a community meeting taking place on Saturday, March 29th about the DPH project and the need to let Gov. Romney know much the community wants the project to move forward. Board members voiced their concern about the project and wanted to show their overwhelming support for DPH's move to Dudley Square. Several ideas about how best to demonstrate support were offered and discussed. Agreement was reached and voted as follows:

Motion: Authorize the BCI Board President, on behalf of the Board, to communicate to the Legislature and the Administration BCI's concern and long standing commitment to DPH relocation to Dudley Square.

By: Mr. Glavin Second: Mr. Foley
Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

C. Capacity Building Committee:

Mr. Baker Bey shared his feelings of loneliness, as no other Board members attended the Committee meetings. The Capacity Building Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month. The RFP for Grant Writing and Fund Raising Training for Community and Faith Based Organizations was released and a response was received. The organization would provide a series of workshops for approximately 70 Community and Faith based organizations located in the Zone.

D. Procurement:

Ms. Araujo presented procurement information on the RFP to provide Grant Writing and Fund Raising training for Zone-based community and faith based organizations. There was discussion among Board members about why other qualified agencies did not apply. Some members felt that they did not have the proposed vote in a timely manner. It was decided by hand vote to stay and discuss the proposed vote.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of BCI, to negotiate and enter into a contract with Paris Education Center to provide Grantwriting and Fundraising training to 70 community and faith based organization for an amount not to exceed \$46,000.

By: Mrs. Greene Second: Ms. Coney
Recused: 0 Abstained 2 Opposed: 1

Motion: Carried



Meeting was ajourned at 8:00 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



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